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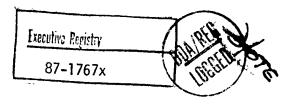
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April 30, 1987

The Honorable Robert M. Gates Acting Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Gates:

I was one of the conferees at the Conference on Intelligence which is the purpose of my writing to you.

From my point of view, the conference did much to reaffirm my confidence in the US Intelligence Community and the CIA in particular. I hope that some of my skeptical colleagues from academe came away with a more positive opinion of and an appreciation for the superb job the Agency is doing.

I was impressed with the enthusiasm and attitude of the young, junior officers with whom I talked. The CIA will be in good hands in the coming decades. I wish my students could talk with them to develop a better understanding of the real culture and philosophy in the CIA. Such contacts, I feel, would dispel some of the myths associated with professional intelligence officers.

I was pleased to learn that consideration is being given to once again provide access to unclassified and/or declassified studies and other materials. The advantages of providing access outweigh the few disadvantages I heard expressed by some officers from the DDI. The people outside the intelligence community who view the CIA's release of information as self-serving also see a conspiracy in silence. Whatever the position, the CIA will have its critics.

All of the people involved in putting on the conference are to be commended for their hard work in making the conference a success.

Sincerely,

Alvin H. Buckelew

Professor

International Affairs

assuskelur

AHB/js

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